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**Mery Christmasssssss**

Turtle Guardians' Carlee Clark-Wade and Lilli-Maude Craig show a snake during the open house on Saturday, Dec. 7. See more photos on page 15. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Times*

# SIRCH seeks community support

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Times Staff*

In the hustle and bustle of a small town, we may not often stop to see that our neighbours are hurting.

That's something that Gena Robertson, the executive director of SIRCH community services, wants to fix.

"In 2010, we did a survey in one of our groups, after they paid for their fixed costs, their different bills, what they had left for food," she shared, "and we were absolutely shocked with the results."

Robertson said that these results kickstarted the drive to develop initiatives around low income families, and food security.

And so began SIRCH's community kitchen program, offering hot meals to anyone in need. The program operates with community distribution partners; thirteen to

**see FUNDS page 2**

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# Funds needed to keep program afloat

from page 1

be exact, including health and mental health providers, food banks, subsidized housing providers, and other community services who may know of individuals or families who need assistance.

"This isn't to replace food banks," said Robertson. "It's in addition to that. It's for people who may not have a place to cook a meal, who may be recovering from a surgery, or may be too frail to shop for themselves."

Since 2020, SIRCH has made and distributed over 75,000 healthy meals and soups, and over 15,000 fruit desserts. From April to November of this year alone, they have delivered over 9,950 meals, and 4,570 soups to residents in Haliburton County and North Hastings through partner organizations.

"That is all thanks to donations raised during our Gifts from the Heart Campaigns," said Robertson. "And the need has gone way up."

SIRCH does not receive any government funding for their community kitchen initiatives, and is entirely reliant on fundraising to continue their programs. This year, their goal through Gifts from the Heart, the fundraiser directly aligned with the meals program, is $150,000. Normally, they surpass their target goal, yet this year, they are just past their halfway point, with less than three weeks to go.

"Prices are high, and people are being cautious with their money this year," said Robertson.

She also noted that SIRCH often does a mail-out for the fundraiser, but this year, with the Canada Post strike showing no signs of ending, she believes it may be causing some hiccups in the fundraising process. "I am hoping that there may be some cheques in the mail that we will get later," she said.

If SIRCH does not meet their goal, Robertson says that they've got some tough choices to make. "If we only get a portion, we have to decide where it goes," she said. "Do we shorten the program, or offer it to fewer people?"

While the outcome is uncertain, Robertson is hopeful that the results are favourable in a few weeks time. "We've always made our goal," she said. "People are generous whenever they can be."

To donate to Gifts from the Heart fundraising campaign and SIRCH's community kitchen for those in need, visit www.sirch.on.ca.


**A Special Note to our valued subscribers**

***Canada Post strike***

We are making adjustments to how you can access your paper(s).

During the strike the Echo will continue to operate and print as always.

**Subscribers can choose from the following options:**

**1. Email** subscriptions@haliburtonpress.com and we will send you a digital copy of the Times during the strike.

**2. Purchase** a paper at any local newspaper dealer in town.

**3. Stop by the Times office** 2 IGA Rd., Unit 2 Minden, **Wednesday, 9am - 1pm** and pick up your paper at no cost to you.

*In the event that the strike lasts longer than two weeks, we will extend your subscription by one month.*

The Times

A thick coat of ice covered much of the region on Dec. 9, resulting in early closures across the county. /Photo submitted

# Ice storm leaves students stuck

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Times Staff*

An ice storm that slammed Haliburton County on Monday, Dec. 9, left many parents uncertain about how to pick up their children from school.

At first glance at the morning radar, it appeared that the ice storm would bypass the Haliburton Highlands, and despite other neighbouring districts calling off buses for the day, local schools were slated to be in session.

Freezing rain started in the region around noon, and as the sleet continued to accumulate on roads and sidewalks, Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) sent out a message to parents and guardians at 1 p.m. stating that they will be modifying afternoon transportation that afternoon. "Transportation will be running from schools at the usual time, but the drop off location for your child(ren) may be different, as a result of deteriorating conditions on side roads. Changes could include a central drop off location," said an emergency press release, sent to parents and guardians in light of the storm.

These changes were to be applied to students of all ages, from all schools in the county.

By 1:42 p.m., a follow-up message was sent to parents from TLDSB, urging parents to pick up their children as soon as possible from the schools.

At around 2:30 p.m., it was announced that County Road 21 between Haliburton and Minden was closed around Blairhampton Road, with a tractor trailer sliced across the road. Many others reported cars in ditches along the sides, with CAA informing customers that they will not be out until the storm eases up.

Despite tumultuous weather and road closures, all children from local TLDSB schools arrived home safely. "Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult transportation situation," read a notice sent out to parents as the day wound down.

The following day, Tuesday, Dec. 10, was confirmed as an inclement weather day, with the schools open for learning opportunities, but buses not running. "Schools are open today with teachers and staff ready to continue a normal school day in class. If you can drop your child(ren) off, or if they can walk to school safely, their teachers look forward to seeing them," said TLDSB messaging. "Student safety remains a priority, and so when it is not safe for transportation to operate in the current road conditions, a bus cancellation is made."

Thursday, December 12th - MY PENGUIN FRIEND
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# County council chooses a new warden

by JAMES MATTHEWS
*Times Staff*

No matter how the vote shakes out, Haliburton County will have a new warden by the time this is read.

Results of the Dec. 10 election were not available as of press time. Complete coverage with results of the election will be in next week's *Minden Times*.

The upper tier council chose between Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton, who was the deputy warden, and Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter for the top spot.

Burton was nominated by Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen, who was the outgoing warden, and Dysart Mayor Murray Fearrey.

Carter was tapped to be a choice by Minden Hills Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell and Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux.

Danielsen was last chosen to helm the county's council during a vote in December 2023. She won the position then over Carter.

That last term in the Big Chair was her sixth term and a county record for wardens.

Much was accomplished by council in the last year.

Arguably at the top of the achievements was the regulation of the short-term rental accommodations market. A corporate entity was created as part of that to turn some of the taxes generated through STRs into benefits for the local tourism industry.

# Snowflake Meadows goes online

by LISA BUCHER
*Special to the Times*

Driven by a lifelong passion for animals, Kristyn Begbie founded Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue to save lives and provide second chances. Her early days volunteering at the Humane Society sparked a commitment that grew into a thriving nonprofit dedicated to rescuing animals in need. Now, the rescue is embarking on its next critical step: building a new kennel to create the space needed to save even more lives.

A new kennel offers the space necessary to help more dogs. The proposed unit will cost over $30,000 and is designed to include five kennels. While still short of meeting the community's needs, it is a step in the right direction. With this new kennel, the rescue will be able to care for and rehabilitate more dogs, allowing them to eventually find loving forever homes.

To fund the project, the rescue is hosting an auction until Dec. 16 featuring various donated items. Monetary contributions can also be made via e-transfer or at Haliburton Veterinary Clinic. Every dollar raised will bring the rescue closer to expanding its capacity.

The rescue provides a safe haven for animals and honours Begbie's late mother. Snowflake Meadows carries a legacy that began with a family tradition of predicting the first snowfall each year. After her mother's passing from pancreatic cancer in 2014, she decided to name the rescue after this ritual. "Every animal we rescue is like a snowflake," she says. "Unique, individual, and precious."

One of the lives touched by the rescue is that of Turbo, a young Cane Corso with a heart as big as his frame. Turbo's journey is one of resilience, love, and peace.

When Turbo first arrived, he had severe hip dysplasia, which had gone undetected until he was returned from an adoptive home a year later. An X-ray revealed that his hip had bone-on-bone contact with no surgical options available. Despite his pain, Turbo remained a gentle, loving soul.

Begbie recalls a moment that will stay with her forever. "One day, Turbo didn't get up to share my breakfast like always. He just lay there in the hallway," she remembers. Sensing something was wrong, Kristyn lay beside him, asking if he was alright. In response, Turbo sighed deeply, placed his paw on her hand, and gave her a soft lick on the nose—a quiet signal that he was ready to let go.

Kristyn Begbie, the owner of Snowflake Meadows Animal Rescue, has started an online auction in hopes of raising enough money for a kennel to support further rescues for local animals in need. /FILE

Snowflake Meadows has become a lifeline for animals facing abandonment, owner surrenders, and overcrowded shelters. Currently, the rescue cares for about 50 dogs, some in foster or foster-to-adopt homes. Kristyn credits the rescue's success to the volunteers and collaborators who make it possible to care for these animals.

Begbie, as the primary caretaker, manages day-to-day operations, including feeding, cleaning, and finding creative ways to house dogs when space is tight. "The biggest challenges are time, money, and space," she acknowledges.

Despite the challenges, Kristyn has built a dedicated team of volunteers. Leah Bull, a trainer from Snoop Dawg K9 Balanced Training, provides behavioural support, while Peggy, a devoted volunteer of five years, has become like family. The rescue also collaborates with Haliburton Veterinary Clinic to ensure the health and well-being of every dog.

While Begbie finds her work fulfilling, she acknowledges that knowing she can't help every dog is the most difficult part. "Sometimes, the hardest challenge is turning off my phone and stepping back," she reflects. She receives, on average, 12 calls daily from people looking to surrender their dogs due to a lack of time, financial resources, or understanding of the breed they chose.

Running a rescue organization is costly. Each dog requires about $1,000 for essential care, including spaying or neutering, vaccinations, parasite prevention, and microchipping. Adoption fees are $850 for males and $875 for females.

Begbie often relies on donations and partnerships, like the Kibble Project, to provide food and supplies. However, they still need more resources, especially for dogs with special dietary needs.

Snowflake Meadows is dedicated to creating a loving environment and ultimately providing a forever home for every animal it rescues. Through her efforts, Begbie honours her mother's legacy, ensuring more animals can shine like a snowflake in the first snowfall.

For those wishing to support the mission, donations can be made via e-transfer to snowflakemeadowsrescue@gmail.com, or material donations such as food and supplies are always welcome.


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**A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

A blocked external exhaust vent can cause the Carbon-Monoxide (CO) emitted by fuel-burning appliances to build up in the home, posing a significant safety hazard. When clearing snow around your property, give your exhaust vents a check.

**HOLIDAY RECYCLING TIPS**

- Aluminum foil and trays, plastic containers, and metal cans go in with your containers recycling
- Paper gift bags, cardboard rolls, and Christmas cards can go with your paper recycling
- Foil wrapping paper, ribbons, tinsel, bows, plastic toy packaging all go in with your household garbage
- Lighting material can be recycled at the Scotch Line Landfill (Fluorescents, bulbs, Christmas lights etc.)

**COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON**

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 am unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **December 12 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal. Please note there is only one meeting in December.

**SAFE WINTER DRIVING**

The safest place is behind the plow. Wait for plows to pull over before passing. Don't accelerate too quickly - the road ahead is unplowed and could be slick or snowy. Avoid parking in the street. Plows can't clear roads that are blocked by parked cars.

**SG NESBITT MEMORIAL ARENA**

The Minden Hills Winter Program Guide is on our website! It has all the info you need on winter registered and drop-in programs, including the winter break drop-in schedule.

**UPCOMING MUNICIPAL HOLIDAY HOURS**

**Municipal/Public Works/Fire Department Administration Offices**
Dec 24th 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
CLOSED Dec 25th - Jan 1st

**Cultural Centre/Agnes Jamieson Gallery**
CLOSED Dec 24th - Jan 1st

**Waste Disposal Sites**
All Sites are CLOSED Dec 25th & Jan 1st.
Sites will operate on regular winter hours all other days.

**SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena and Community Centre**
Dec 24th 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Dec 31st 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
CLOSED Dec 25th, 26th & Jan 1st

**AGNES JAMIESON GALLERY**

Artwork from the permanent collection, featuring André Lapine (1866-1952) as well as new acquisitions, are now on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Admission is by donation.

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# Christmas comes to Kinmount

**Santa stopped by Kinmount on Dec. 7 for their annual Christmas in the Village event. /TIM YANO Staff photographer**

# Public health units announce merge

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
*Times Staff*

Public health units that serve Haliburton County and Peterborough are shacking up together.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District public health board and that of Peterborough Public Health will merge Jan. 1. The new health board will meet for the first time in the new year.

Both current public health units will remain operational, with no immediate impact on programs and services provided to the public.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the HKPR unit's medical officer of health and its CEO, said during the board's Dec. 4 meeting that the total monetary package from the province for the merger's first year is about $10 million. That cash infusion will support the merger directly, catch-up activities, and service improvements to strengthen public health for this region.

Cecil Ryall, County's representative on the HKPR board and deputy mayor of Highlands East, said there was initial concern about being able to spend some of that money before a March 1 deadline for the opening phase of the merger.

"And if I'm not mistaken, any monies that are not spent could be clawed back," Ryall said. "However, there was some discussion on the possibility they could carried forward as well.

"Is there any feel for the fact that some of that money could be deferred rather than clawed back by the province?"

"The funding letter from the province articulates the commitment to fund 100 per cent merger-related expenditures," Bocking said. "And this isn't necessarily specific to this fiscal year."

The possibility of losing some programming was broached, specific reference was made about HKPR vaccinations.

The unit has six positions vacant because of insufficient base funds. Bocking said those positions are in nutrition, in school health, and vaccine preventable diseases.

"In general, we know that we would be using from reserves," she said. "The province has capped at one per cent, so I would anticipate that we'll have to look at all of our programs to see what services would be impacted. It would be unfair right now for me to say what specific service."

The goal of the merger is to sustain and improve the delivery of public health programs and services across the City of Kawartha Lakes, Haliburton County, Northumberland County, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Peterborough County and the City of Peterborough.

"This is an important milestone bringing both public health units together to form one new organization," said David Marshall, the HKPR board's chairperson.

"Our dedicated and now combined employees of more than 300 public health professionals will continue to work with our communities, partners and stakeholders to protect and promote health and prevent disease within our combined areas to keep our residents healthy."

In a letter to Marshall, Health Minister Sylvia Jones said the ministry expects the health boards to apply any operational efficiencies, including those through reducing full-time equivalent positions.

"Voluntary mergers are a critical part of the work that that the ministry has initiated to strengthen the public health sector and it is our intention that there are no fiscal impacts to municipalities as a result of the merger," Jones said.

She said the move aligns with the plans to optimize the province's health care system and to improve health care outcomes by connecting Ontarians to faster, more convenient care.

Dave Smith, the MPP for Peterborough-Kawartha, said the merger will create a health unit that is large enough to allow succession planning for every staff position, create opportunities for mentorship, professional growth, and provide exceptional healthcare results for the area.

Merging the public health organizations will streamline operations and enhance their ability to deliver comprehensive and efficient services, said Laurie Scott, MPP for Haliburton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock.

"This integration will allow for the expansion of programs and ensure health initiatives will reach more people, fostering healthier communities across our region," she said.

The Ministry of Health announced in August 2023 plans to strengthen the public health sector by offering one-time funding, resources, and supports to local public health agencies that voluntarily merged by Jan. 1, 2025.

In response to the announcement, the HKPR District health unit and PPH boards tapped the Sense and Nous consulting firm to conduct a feasibility study on a potential union.

Both boards then voted to move forward with the merger process in February 2024 and a voluntary merger proposal and budget was submitted to the province on April 2.

According to a press release, the Health Ministry has assured the public health unit that government commits to 100 per cent provincial funding support for this merger with no fiscal impacts to municipalities and First Nations.

The province also, in principle, commits to funding eligible merger expenses in subsequent years.

The new board of health membership will include nine municipal representatives. One of those will come from Haliburton County. It will also include a member each from Curve Lake First Nation and from Hiawatha First Nation.

Peterborough residents became more familiar with public health's role and leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic, however, the health unit in our community has served us for over 135 years with a wide-reaching scope beyond infectious diseases," said Joy Lachica, the PPH board's chairperson.

"With our friends at HKPR and the generous funding investment by the province, we will sustain and grow public health services for our residents."


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# In Other Words

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

The Times

2 IGA Road, Box 97
Minden, ON, K0M 2K0
• 705-286-1288 • Fax 705-286-4768
**Published by White Pine Media Corp**

**DAVID ZILSTRA**
Publisher and Ad Director,
david.zilstra@gmail.com

**JENNIFER MCEATHRON**,
General Manager and Sales
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

**THOMAS SMITH**, Editor
thomas@haliburtonpress.com

**JAMES MATTHEWS**, Reporter
james@haliburtonpress.com

**EMILY STONEHOUSE,** Reporter
emily@haliburtonpress.com

**KAREN LONDON**
Production Co-ordinator
karen@haliburtonpress.com

**REED SACHAROFF**
Production

**STACEY POTALIVO**
Production

**LAURA SMITH**, Sales
laura@haliburtonpress.com

**PAUL BANELOPOULOS,** Sales
paul@haliburtonpress.com

**INSIDE SALES**
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

**CIRCULATION**
subscriptions@haliburtonpress.com

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## Perfect storm

HERE WE ARE, just a few days after an ice storm shook the rafters of our little towns. What started as a regular grey day quickly escalated into something that had buses rerouting, parents panicking, and worst-case-scenarios played out in our minds.

Suddenly, the fragility of life became apparent once again; friends and colleagues checking in on one another, making sure they got home safe and sound.

Social media forever playing its part. While we're not allowed to share updates on Canadian news sites anymore (thanks, Bill C-18), we followed the posts that became scattered on various sites; each citing slightly different updates, our minds whirring while we thought about who may be involved.

**EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Times Staff*

As the night settled, myself and my family nestled tight in our cozy home, my thoughts went out to those who spent their night on the roads. Township staff, hydro workers, CAA, first responders.

And I know of a few who didn't even make it home; their cars sledged with ice and a forced decision to hunker down elsewhere.

These storms somehow catch us off guard each and every time. You would think we would be no stranger to Old Man Winter at this point in the game. But even after countless cold nights, I still find myself on edge each time we're taken by storm.

Apparently I'm not the only one. With the ongoing updates that blasted from our phones, a sticky side of humans clung to the cacophony; throwing blame at anyone within reach. I saw hatred spewed towards the schools, the bus drivers, the board, snowplow drivers, tow truck drivers.

So many to blame. Accusations of not working fast enough, of making the wrong decisions, of actively putting others at risk.

The combination of individual anxiety, concerns, questions, fear, and a platform that fuels the fire by giving each person a soapbox from which to scream.

The perfect storm.

And yes, I understand the stress that was suddenly laid upon so many. What started as a regular grey day quickly escalated. But it wasn't a time to point fingers and lay blame. It was a time to open your hearts, your minds, and maybe even your homes to those in need.

Storms have a way of humbling us. Of reminding us we are not invincible, of forcing us to lay low until it passes, of encouraging us to sit still and quite simply wait.

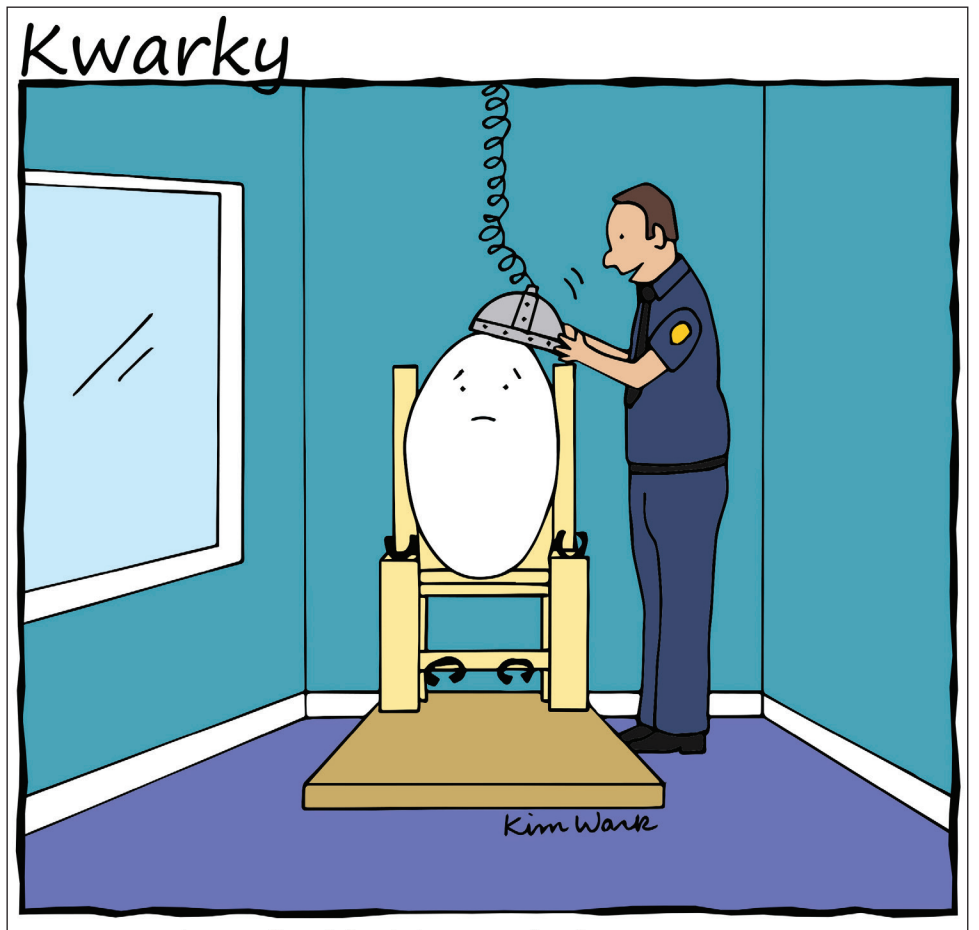
And while the eye of the storm can elicit fear, confusion, and anxiety that so often spins into hatred, I hope we can take a moment during future storms to find the beauty of human existence during these trying times.

Can we think about the wary bus drivers who finally made it home; the lives of our precious cargo in their shaky hands as they white-knuckled down our back roads.

Think about the snow plow drivers who are on their third coffee while the rest of us are still in slumber.

Think about the first responders who don't have the privilege of saying no when they are called to service, and instead of turning away from danger, run towards it head-on.

Because while the storms may catch us off guard, being a good human shouldn't be something we forget how to do each and every time Old Man Winter knocks at our door.




## Waiting for first ice

AS WE MOVE further towards winter, there is something palpable in the air. But that's only if you are getting a tour of a new ice hut, and the builder chose that moment to test the ventilation and acoustics.

This – and the finding of the Styrofoam container that housed last year's worms in the back of your fridge – is one of the signs that a new ice fishing season is almost upon us.

Now, ice anglers are now anxiously awaiting news of our lakes icing over.

Most of us know that it takes four inches of good ice before it is considered safe for anglers to walk out to their favourite spots. Anything less is only suited for the guy who drove by you on his ATV during deer season just as that big buck was walking in. It takes considerably more than that for those riding out and towing huts.

**STEVE GALEA**
*Beyond 35*

Until then, ice anglers – and their partners – are hoping that ice forms quickly. The former because they love the sport. The latter because they'd rather not have an ice hut in the driveway for any longer than necessary.

Luckily, in the time between now and safe ice, there's a lot to do.

We ice anglers will typically organize our tackle boxes, make sure our electronics are operational, spool fresh line on our reels, and ensure our rods are in good working order. Once that's done, we will start visiting the lakes we fish about once a week to assess the ice.

Everyone has their methods of doing this. Some will check ice thickness by using a spud to punch a hole near shore. If it is thick enough to stand on safely, they'll take another few steps out and do it again. And again. This will occur until they are confident the ice is safe in the area they want to fish, or until they here cracking noises all around them and decide its time to go home to change. These people are the early season pioneers who blaze a trail out onto the ice fishing grounds for the smarter people who follow.

More cautious ice anglers wait for the annual running of the huts. This is a display of pageantry in which a guy with an ice hut, and three of his friends who were not quick enough with excuses, move an ice hut out onto the lake.

The theory is that, if you follow in the tracks of the machine that towed an ice hut onto the lake, you're probably going to be OK – unless you just had seconds or thirds at an all you can eat buffet.

Personally, I like to walk out to my spots trailing an ice fishing sled that holds my auger and gear. In the early season, I will always drill as I go and err on the side of caution. And I won't assume just because the ice was safe yesterday, it is still safe today. Wind, weather, currents, and high explosives can eat away at ice integrity. Plus, ice thickness can vary depending on water depth.

The good news is once we've had a few consecutive days of frigid temperatures and the right weather conditions the ice thickens and there is less need to worry.

I call it the icing on the lake.

**InOtherWords**

*Columns and Letters to the Editor*

# Creating the conditions…

THE CONCEIT OF this column has been that I would spin off something I read or saw that put me in mind of an issue of importance to our local community. As the larger geopolitical world continues to spiral downward in how it exercises humanity, I am finding it difficult to react to their news without becoming downright dour and discouraging, which is what people never need to hear.

So I'm reaching into personal history for inspiration. And comfort.

In my earlier life, I was involved with giving voice to young people who had been raised in the child welfare system. Our mantra was that their experience as children parented by the state was what should inform the government -- and society more broadly -- about what needed to change to have better outcomes.

I founded a program that was mandated to prepare kids who were aging out of the child welfare system at age 16 or 18 to be 'independent'. The funder's idea was a 6-month boot camp to fill the massive chasms left by inadequate upbringing, first by parents deemed neglectful or abusive, and then by the state. We realized in the first weeks of operation that our program was basically a small bundle of bucks thrown into the wind to assuage the guilt shared by all who felt a shred of responsibility for doing such a bad job of parenting children who had been wrenched from their parents as punishment (presumably to the parents, but more, I always thought, to the children) for their inability to do the necessary. My kids were in high school at the time; I was consciously preparing them for independence. If my work assignment was bogus, thought I, then what would make it worth doing?

**FAY MARTIN**
*Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder*

The program began to march to an empowerment beat: ready or not, the young people were going to be responsible for their lives, so they'd better learn how to identify and access what they needed to survive, even thrive. Tough love, if you like. But absolutely rooted in reality. The world is not fair, that we know. For those of us with the good fortune to be born into adequacy, maybe even privilege, that is of academic interest if at all. For kids leaving care, and others in unfortunate circumstances, it's a death threat.

And so we turned to making the world a better place for kids leaving care. Not fixing the kids, as the assignment implied, but fixing the world.

Essential to that was teaching the kids to stand up for themselves, to speak truth to power, to ask for what they needed and be accountable for what they received, to create and nurture community, to act for the greater good. We were amazingly effective.

Any activity that bites the hand that feeds it – as we did: young people learning to be responsible adults tell authority what they think they need to hear -- will experience strong pressure to fall into line, to do the expected. That pressure fell primarily on me, as boss, to protect the program that allowed youth to find their power. It was immensely satisfying work; it was also exhausting. After eight years, I abandoned ship (guilt, guilt!), confident that I left it in good hands.

I indulged in a mid-life PhD to figure out what the hell made that program work, to see the forest rather than the trees. Senator Landon Pearson (1930-2023) who called herself the Voice of Children on the Hill, often spoke at events where my academic life took me. About her revolutionary work, she said that the idea of saving children was sentimental and misguided. The secret to their well-being, she said, was to change the circumstances under which they lived, and leave it to them to take advantage of what was available.

Change the Circumstances Under Which. I remember the resounding clang with which those words entered my conscience. That was what we had tried to do, day by day, situation by situation, kid by kid. We made progress. Not enough: kids today are coming into care and being abandoned in hotel rooms, exactly the situation that drove me out of government casework in Alberta in the late 1970s. The problem with progress is that the forces of regression never stop. Progress is maintained by progressing: if it's not getting better, it's getting worse. Change is constant.

Change the Circumstances Under Which. It is the mantra that I call upon whenever times get tough. It is an analytic tool that rescues me from sentimentality and despair. It is applicable to just about every human condition. Don't believe me? I challenge you to name one that couldn't be improved by changing just something in the situation in which it exists. I challenge you to practice finding the little overlap between what should be and what could be.

fay@faymartin.ca

## *Minden Memories*

**A photograph shows postmaster Walter Welch and courier Richard Kirkwood on Main Street in Minden following the fire on May 15, 1942. They stand with items salvaged from the post office: a pot-bellied stove, a chair, the post office sign, and two mail bags. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre**

# Join us for a warm and joyful Christmas dinner at SIRCH

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Dinner: 4 to 7 p.m.
Social Hour: 3 to 4 p.m.

Location: SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Ave, Haliburton

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If you're looking for more information, call SIRCH at 705-457-1742 or visit www.sirch.on.ca.

*Submitted*

## HCPL's Book of the Week

New York Times bestselling author of The Authenticity Project
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COMMUTING
A Novel
CLARE POOLEY
"Sunny, funny, and full of heart." —Nita Prose, #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Maid

Every day Iona rides the train. Every day she sees the same people. Of course, they never speak. Seasoned commuters never do.

Until one morning, a man almost chokes to death on a grape right in front of her. This single event starts a chain reaction, and an eclectic group of people with almost nothing in common except their commute discover that a chance encounter can blossom into much more. It turns out that talking to strangers can teach you about the world around you—and even more about yourself. *Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley is available to borrow as a book or book club set from the Haliburton County Public Library.

# Local bikejoring and skijoring champ hosts wellness seminar

by **THOMAS SMITH**
*Editor*

Karen Koehler stands beside Zillion with their two gold medals won at the Canadian Dryland Nationals Championship in Alberta this year. /Submitted

Carnarvon resident Karen Koehler, 51, has added two gold medals at the Canadian Dryland Nationals Championships in Alberta and a bronze medal at the first ever Continental North American Championships held in Wisconsin. Both of these wins means Kohler qualifies for the World Championship held in Wisconsin next fall. Koehler also coaches students in canicross, kicksledding, and scooter.

Koehler's pack consists of four dogs named Buncho, Mighty, Really, and Zillion. Koehler and Zillion were victorious as a duo at the Canadian Championships this year.

Koehler was inspired to take up skijoring and bikejoring after her grandmother went on a health kick around the age of 65.

"It is never too late to start packing your backpack (your mental and physical go bag) to rock your mobility and strength to play with your grandkids, enjoy the outdoors or whatever it is you want to do," said Koehler.

Koehler says that her dogs love participating in these events. One key tip that Koehler offers is to keep the line tight, even while riding downhill so as to not overrun your dogs. Skijoring and bikejoring is not without its risks. Last year, Koehler took a fall at a skijoring event. After finishing the event, Koehler learned that she had broken her leg.

Since entering an international Championship in Norway in 2011, Koehler says that the sport is rapidly spreading throughout Canada, namely Quebec. Koehler says it is a great way for people and their pets to get outside, get active, and remain fit.

After years of successes and remaining in shape, Koehler has decided to start a small business called Wellness for You and Your Canine. With her small business, Koehler is offering services in wellness coaching, personal training, and harness dog coaching.

"I want to serve more people to learn harness dog sports and especially work with women 45+ to confidently rock their wellness and embrace their age by rekindling their fitness, fun, and fulfillment whether or not they have a canine, through my coaching programs that include the individualized tools and strategies required to overcome the hurdles that are holding them back," said Koehler.

On Dec. 11, Koehler will be hosting a free online webinar titled 'Vital Keys to Unleash Strength, Joy and Fulfillment in Your Next Chapter.' This presentation is to inspire women over the ages of 45 to embark on their fitness discovery. It will encourage women to add more fitness, fun, and fulfillment into their busy lives while also bettering their overall health. Koehler strives for people to embrace their age and confidently rock their wellness, with, or without a canine companion.

"Having the accountability of a coach is key if you are struggling. You can prioritize choosing to pay a coach for a program now, to get you on to your dream sustainable lifestyle, or pay a lot more by losing your health," Stress, anxiety, and reliance on expensive medicines can often be preventable, says Koehler.

The link for her talk can be found at https://3vitalkeys-to-strengthjoyfulfillment.eventbrite.ca. Koehler also has a website with info to contact her at www.wellness-for-you-and-your-canine.com.

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**Acrylic Landscape Painting - Beginner**
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Instructor : Lizzy Clarke

**March 21 to April 17**
*Five-Session Friday Course*
**Arts Commerce - Small Business Planning & Design**
Instructor : Lindsey Irwin

Week-Long Courses & One-Day Workshops

**February 10 to 14**
**Painting - From Realism to Abstraction**
Instructor : Elizabeth Greisman

**Saturday, February 15**
**Digital Arts - Adobe Photoshop Intro Workshop**
Instructor : Zach Williams

**February 24 to 28**
**Fibre Arts - Art Quilts**
Instructor : Jan Anderson

**Saturday, March 1**
**Digital Arts - Adobe Illustrator Intro Workshop**
Instructor : Zach Williams

**March 24 to 28**
**Watercolour - Landscape Painting**
Instructor : Gord Jones

**Saturday, March 29**
**Digital Arts - Photoshop Collage Workshop**
Instructor : Corin Ford Forrester

NEW! March Break Art Courses - March 10 - 14

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Instructor : Isabel Neveu-Geene

**Youth Art Camp - Artful Explorations**
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**Painting the Winter Landscape (Adult)**
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# Gifts *from the* Heart

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## Minden Firefighters collect toys for tots

Minden Hills Fire Association was collecting for the annual Christmas food and toy drive last Sunday, Dec. 8 at Canadian Tire. /KAREN LONDON Staff

# Brooksong celebrates OTF grant

by **THOMAS SMITH**
*Editor*

"Celebration is a great reason to gather," opened Barb Smith-Morrison, executive director of Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre.

On Friday, Nov. 29 MPP Laurie Scott, facilitators, and participants joined over Zoom to celebrate a $122,800 Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) grant. The grant was awarded in September of 2022 and has been used through September of 2024. Brooksong utilized the grant to offer unique and transformative online cancer support programs, while also spreading word of their mission across Ontario.

Their mission: To support people on their health and healing journeys, especially those living with cancer.

The OTF helps a large number of nonprofits throughout the province. A large grant can make a huge difference to an organization like Brooksong, said Scott.

"My communities are so much stronger with the trillium dollars that have been received. From everything from Legions, to yourself, to Kinark. You make such a difference in your community.'

And that need is growing.

The grant allowed Brooksong to develop 'Re-Shaping Our Cancer Stories' and 'Take a Thread and Follow It,' as well as to support the nonprofit's costs for facilities, technical equipment, and administrative costs. A new online program titled 'Healing Circles' will be offered over Zoom, with signup opening soon.

'Re-Shaping Our Cancer Stories' is a six week program that included six virtual meetings as well as at-home practice invitations. Video segments, submitted materials, yoga, art-making, sound, and discussion circles were all utilized to begin anew, with an open heart and open mind following a cancer diagnosis.

'Take a Thread and Follow It' was a seven week program that taught simple stitching and simple art-making techniques for participants to creatively explore and express their cancer journey. Mending, repairing, and creating were all factors that support people living with cancer in addressing uncertainty and transience within their lives.

Through the OTF grant, Brooksong was able to support 100 additional participants utilizing their online support programs. In addition, they were able to develop a rigorous facilitator training program, able to facilitate programs from across the province.

Their new training program included online and immersive training, newly accessible videos and resources, and videos that shared stories through the eyes of the participants. Brooksong's marketing products and methods were improved upon, allowing word to spread out into the community.

Brooksong's programs have a waitlist of over 200 people.

"Cancer is very expensive for families and individuals," added Smith-Morrison. "While many participants make a donation to help someone else experience the support they received, many cannot. We are so grateful for the support that we receive across the province from individuals, as well as the grant support of the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This support quite literally changes lives."

Many participants of Brooksong's programs shared their stories. One participant, Amber Young shared her story of being diagnosed with non-hodgkin's lymphoma that had spread throughout her spinal cord, lungs, bones, and spleen.

"Cancer changes your life and I know everyone in this room, whether it is from personal experience, understands what I'm talking about. I think that is one of the biggest things with the Re-Shaping program," said Young.

Young described feeling immense love from Brooksong's very first email and noted that through the poems, guided rests, soundscapes, and art-making, she was able to find the words inside of herself that she didn't know were there.As an Ottawa resident, Young was able to participant in the Re-Shaping program purely because of the OTF grant.

Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre has been operating since 2017 providing cancer support retreats, online support programs and a local quilting initiative for local residents and people across the province impacted by cancer. Local residents are given priority in programs and all cancer support programming is offered at no cost.

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# New family doctor in Kinmount

The Kinmount District Health Services Foundation (KDHSF) is delighted to share that another family physician, Dr. M. Van Der Leden, will soon be joining the healthcare team at the Kinmount and District Health Centre (KDHC).

Dr. Van Der Leden grew up in Eastern Ontario and is returning from the U.S. where she has practised medicine for several years.

Dr. Van Der Leden plans to start seeing patients at the KDHC in early February, 2025. She notes that she is looking forward to returning to Canada and serving patients from the area at the Kinmount and District Health Centre.

Residents of Kinmount and area without a family doctor who wish to apply to become a patient of Dr. Van Der Leden are invited to complete the KDHC New Patient Wait List registration form available on the kdhc.ca website or via the following link: https://forms.gle/tnYDLfSVDnwMXSby9

For those who do not have access to a computer, paper forms can be picked up at either of the Kinmount pharmacies and placed in the outdoor mail slot at the KDHC.

Please do not contact the Kinmount District Health Centre directly as all intake of patients will be done through this new Wait List.

The KDHSF would like to thank the community for their invaluable support which makes physician recruitment and retention possible. The Directors of the Foundation continue efforts to increase the healthcare team at the KDHC, to make improvements to the health centre and its equipment, and to support retention of our healthcare professionals.

The Kinmount District Health Services Foundation is a registered not-for-profit comprised of community volunteers who work to support the Kinmount and District Health Centre. You are invited to visit www.kdhc.ca for more information about both the KDHSF and the KDHC, or contact Susan Forrester, KDHSF Chair at kdhsf@kdhc.ca.

*Submitted*

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# Coming Full Circle to train peer support workers

Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, in partnership with the Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (CMHA HKPR) and several organizations representing the Haliburton County Connections Committee are proud to announce the launch of a two-year project commencing Jan. 1, 2025, titled Coming Full Circle: Training, Mentorship and Employment Supports for People with Lived Experience in Haliburton County.

This initiative was funded in an amount of $797,515 from the Canada's Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP).

The project aims to build a network of people with lived and living experience of substance use and mental health challenges who are trained, equipped and supported to become peer support workers. These workers will have opportunities to build their own professional and leadership capacity to contribute to health and social system improvements across Haliburton County.

The initiative includes partnerships with community leaders who have already begun to build organizational readiness to harness the expertise of people with lived and living experience. Community partners aim to explore ways to welcome this lived expertise to foster a culture of hope, acceptance, and belonging, and to ensure that local mental health and substance use support services are effective and safe to access.

The project will include utilizing the advice and expertise of those with living experience to explore and plan models of support. These supports will be provided in Haliburton, Minden, Carnarvon, and Wilberforce, and project planners will be looking for people with lived and living experience to consult with as well as explore new space opportunities. If you would like to get involved in this project, please phone or text 705-761-5499.

More information will be available on the Point in Time and CMHA HPKR websites as it becomes available.

"We are grateful to have this exceptional opportunity for training, education and employment supports for people with lived experience, as well as new community spaces and educational initiatives for community leaders," said Marg Cox, Executive Director for Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents. "We are aware that the pandemic, economics and stress levels have contributed to substance use and we are thrilled to have an opportunity to co-develop supports with people with living and lived experience."

CMHA HKPR will play a primary role in operationalizing the project. Other project partners representing the Haliburton County Connections Committee include Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Pine Ridge District Health Unit, the County of Haliburton Community Safety and Well-Being, Community Living Trent Highlands, Kawartha Lakes Housing Corp, John Howard Society of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton, PARN - Your Community AIDS Resource Network, and Haliburton Highlands Health Services.

"We know that people who have experienced challenges related to mental health and substance use have unique expertise in navigating systems and services that support their own recovery," said Kerri Kightley, Director of Programs and Services at CMHA HKPR. "This project aims to match that expertise with people who are struggling or who may be hesitant to reach out for help, and work to connect them with services to support their health and recovery. CMHA HKPR is thrilled to be working with Point in Time and our partners in Haliburton County to launch this important work."

"We recognize the tragic toll substance use is taking on families, friends and communities across Canada. Our comprehensive and compassionate approach is about reducing harms and saving lives," said the Honourable Ya'ara Saks, Minister of Mental Health Addictions and Associate Minister of Health. "We are supporting organizations that have deep roots in their communities, have the trust of their clients and have the first-hand knowledge needed to make a real difference in people's lives. We are using every tool at our disposal to end this crisis and build a safer, healthier and more caring future for all Canadians."

*Submittted*

## Stanhope Firefighters throw Kids' Christmas Party

Over 40 kids from 24 families came out to celebrate the festive season at the Stanhope Firefighters Association's Children's Christmas Party held on Saturday Dec. 7. /Submitted

# Public health addresses youth vaping issue

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
*Times Staff*

Public health officials have gotten behind a lobby against youths vaping and flavoured e-cigarettes.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District public health unit's board decided to send a letter to Health Canada, throwing support behind the federal department's effort to amend regulations around tobacco and vaping products.

Dr. Natalie Bocking, the unit's medical officer of health, said youth vaping is a public health concern nationally, provincially, and locally. As such, it merits a regulatory response, she said.

"We know that e-cigarette flavours are a key marketing strategy to appeal to youth in particular," Bocking said. "And that's the primary reason that youths are starting vaping or e-cigarettes."

Vaping has often been advertised as a means of smoking cessation. But research has proven a strong link between vaping and the transition to smoking traditional cigarettes.

Bocking said the federal attempt at regulatory reform excluded menthol and mint flavours. Fruity and candy flavours are the focus. The HKPR will in its letter of support recommend that mint and menthol be included in a regulatory change.

"There is evidence that youth are also attracted to mint and menthol flavours as one of the flavours that they choose," she said.

According to a HKPR health unit briefing note, flavoured e-cigarettes play a significant role in a young person's decision to start vaping. Nine out of 10 middle to high school students in 2024 reported using vape flavours, the most popular being fruit, candy, and mint.

Youths who use e-cigarettes are highly susceptible to developing a nicotine addiction, as their still-developing brains may lead them to believe that they need nicotine to feel balanced. Despite having no previous intention to smoke combustible cigarettes, studies have shown that vaping increases the likelihood of smoking onset. Some research suggests that youth who vape are also 3.6 times more likely to start smoking tobacco later in life.

"Research indicates that youth who use e-cigarettes tend to view smoking as less harmful and less addictive compared to those who do not vape," according to the briefing note. "This perception could ultimately cause a shift toward using combustible cigarettes.

According to the Canadian Lung Association, two of three youths ages 12 to 17 years old who vape and smoke began with vaping. The Canada Gazette reports more than 99 per cent of e-cigarettes sold in Canada are flavoured, making them particularly appealing due to sweet and fruity flavours that quells nicotine's harsh effects.

"Additionally, documents from the tobacco industry indicate that adolescents and young adults not only prefer flavoured tobacco products, but they are particularly vulnerable to them," according to public health officials.

**Watch out Snow Miser**

Firing up the outdoor wood stove helps keep Jack Frost away. /Photo by Guenter Horst

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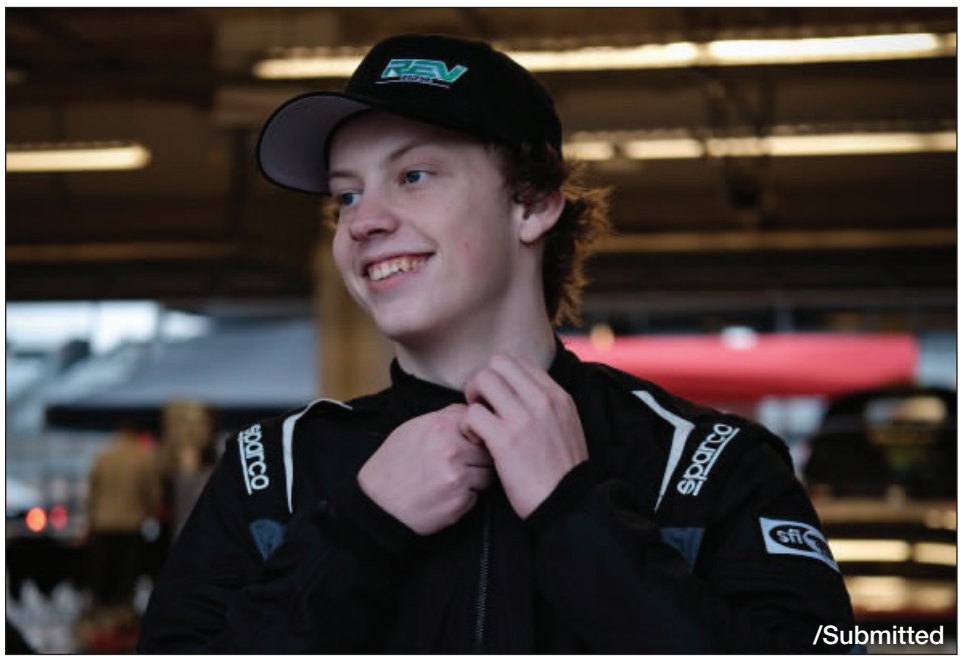
# Kunz eyes World Endurance Race Championship

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
*Times Staff*


/Submitted

What started as a little hobby to get Eric Kunz out of the house, has since turned into a lifelong passion and career in the racing world.

"It's been a crazy ride," said Kunz, the 2024 Canadian TCA Champion, "but I've been very fortunate along this journey."

The 21-year-old racer, who spends his summers cottaging on Soyers Lake in Haliburton, found his need for speed at the age of 17. "I was spending a lot of time in front of a computer," recalled Kunz, sharing his experiences around the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. "So my mom said she would support me, no matter what I chose to do."

Kunz laughed that he tried to call her bluff by saying he wanted to take up skydiving, which she quickly shut down. "So I thought of the second most dangerous thing I could do, and said I wanted to race cars."

To his surprise, though, he instantly fell in love with the sport. The young racer started his career in Go-Karts, which he spent his first year experimenting with, and learning the ways of the road. By 2021, he was competing in kart races regionally, before being offered opportunities to go to Florida to race through the United States.

Kunz spent the first part of 2022 exploring the U.S. through various races, before being invited to try his first formal race car. "I had just gotten my G2 drivers licence," he chuckled, "and right away, I was put in a car."

"It was very, very overwhelming. It was the fastest track in North America," he said. "It's a high-speed, crazy roller coaster of a track. It still doesn't feel quite real."

But Kunz had been bitten by the racing bug. "After that, I started applying for my racing license, which I got, before I got a call from the FIA."

The FIA, or Federation Internationale de l'Automobile, is the governing body of motor sport around the world. The organization had spotted Kunz, and offered him a spot to race an electric Formula 4 car in a three-week racing trip. The trip started in Belgium, before he was whisked off to multiple endurance races in Texas, and then Mexico City. His race in Texas was his second time ever in a real race car, and he was up against 90 other drivers.

By 2023, just three short years after diving into the world of racing, Kunz participated in the Sports Car Championship in Canada. He came in second place, losing only to a racer who had been driving cars longer than Kunz had been alive.

But this didn't slow him down. Kunz set the pedal to the metal to train for the past year, and in 2024, he came out on top, winning first in the championship, and setting his eyes on an international prize next. "I want to race in the World Endurance Championship," he said. "That's the ultimate goal."

While it's been a whirlwind ride, Kunz is humbly aware of how far he has come, and everyone who has helped him get to this place. Now that he is being noticed around the world, the young driver wants to use his platform to help others.

Kunz was born with a rare condition called kaposiform lymphangiomatosis, or KLA for short. With the condition, the vessels that carry lymphatic fluid throughout the body expand and interconnect. These abnormal lymphatic vessels invade, and cause damage to surrounding tissue, bones, and organs. "I was a Sick Kids (hospital) patient for most of my life," said Kunz. "I've been dealing with chronic pain every day for most of my life."

He shared that the ongoing pain resulted in his own mental health taking a nosedive; particularly in his teenage years. "It was hard to watch my friends go and do things that I just couldn't do," he said. "I really struggled with depression around that."

But Kunz is acutely aware of his support system, and how certain people have held his hand while he has discovered his passion for racing. He gives credit to his healthcare team, both for his physical and mental health, as well as his family, friends, and coaches.

And now, he's ready to give back. Kunz became a Sick Kids Ambassador in 2022, offering kids the unique experience of joining him at the Honda Indie race in Toronto. "That was a cool experience for me," he said. "I'm so thankful I had a chance to give back."

Recently, the young racer has joined a program called Youth Speak, which focuses on public appearances at schools to discuss mental health, addictions, and support. "I just had so much support growing up," he said, "and I really want to pay it forward."

While Kunz is still navigating the everyday pains that accompany his condition; both physically and mentally, he is optimistic about his journey in the racing world. "I still deal with the pain," he shared, "but I've found new ways to manage it. I found racing as a way to cope."

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*Answers on page 15*

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received an application to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024030**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Canning Lake, lying in front of 1027 Ketola Lane located within Part Lot 15, Concession 14, Geographic Township of Snowdon.

The above noted application is available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

**AND TAKE NOTICE** should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than January 10, 2025.

**AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE** any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than January 10, 2025.

**AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

Callum McGee, 5, poses for a photo with a turtle.

**Turtle Guardians wish you a turtle-y merry Christmas**

The Turtle Guardians hosted an open house on Saturday, Dec. 7. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Times*

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## 650 OBITUARIES

*In Loving Memory of*

### Myrlene Leith Foster (nee Potter)

*Passed away suddenly on Monday, December 2, 2024.*

Beloved wife of Leslie (Joe) Johnson. Dear mother of Yvette Foster, dear sister of Robert Potter and his wife Elva, Kenneth Potter and his wife Cathy, Katherine Ridsdale and her husband Leslie. Dear aunt of Irwin, Donna, Linda, Mike, Jill, Keith, Lee, Gary and Clare.

It was Myrlene's wish for no services, cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Ontario Lung Association would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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*In Loving Memory of*

### Varpu Maarit Siirala-Smith

*b. 24 April 1953 Jarvenpaa,Finland.*
*d. 1 Nov 2024 Whitehorse, Yukon*

Lost ... Varpu Maarit Siirala-Smith. She was the most dependable source of guidance & wise counsel, the foundation of our home for many years. As the guardian, heart and soul of our family, her sudden absence has induced a painful awareness that our rock solid matriarch, without fair warning, has physically vanished.

Maarit ('Mama') led a remarkable life which encircled her family (direct & extended) like a warm blanket of safety, security, cheeky humour & abundant TLC. As a child she loved animals, and aspired to be a veterinarian. Years after this childhood dream, Maarit ended up fostering a rotating cast of household pets and sewing countless children's toy animals. While living in Carnarvon, Ontario for 22 years, she- along with two of her siblings, her sister-in-law, and family friend Cathy Senitt operated 'Senitt Dolls and Puppets', creator of Wrinkles the Dog puppet.

Life circumstances led to leaving her home and community in Ontario 18 years ago. In typical fashion, she tackled the challenge of moving to unknown Whitehorse, accepting this change as a timely opportunity in her opinion "for the next generation". She and some of her family made the move to the Yukon in 2006. Here new friendships were nurtured and adventures begun, including her instrumental participation in helping her kids obtain & grow their own family business- Midnight Sun Coffee Roasters. Over the years, anyone who sampled Maarit's unforgettably delicious cooking or baking would attest to her culinary wizardry.

First and Foremost were always her children, grandchildren and pets who all received unconditional love as well as the genuine interest, trust, motherly companionship & support she invested in them. As Walt Whitman said- " We convince with our presence", and Mama's presence was indeed convincing.

Found ... A peculiar peace of mind in knowing that a smiling welcome committee comprised of ancestors, friends, parents and two sisters previously summoned thru the Sacred Veil are greeting and embracing her with open arms. They are no doubt also discovering the mixed blessing of her arrival as their new canasta opponent has brought her smirkingly unbeatable skills to the card table.

As much as we regret her leaving and suffer from our loss, we know that Maarit's brilliant lightness of being has been called to be of assistance on ' the other side'. There's been a clear recognition of her talent for solving problems aligned with an ongoing curiosity and insatiable quest for understanding and justice which was so often demonstrated here in life.

Found also is the realization that our beloved Maarit has finished her mission here- her lifelong goal to complete the creation of a family interconnected by the invisible threads of love, respect and kindness ( except at the card table) that she so adeptly wove into all of our lives. Our gratitude is boundless... Kiitos.

She is greatly missed & applauded by her spouse Gord, children Saskia (Eric), Katya (Steve),Micah (Katie), Casey (Matt), Matthew (Mel) and grandchildren : Jacob, Ruby, Finnegan, Emmett, Maggie, Louella, Cora, Sam and Neva as well as brothers Kari and Lauri, in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends…

The love is strong.

Big heartfelt thank you to the EMS folks, Dr. Micaela Coombs & the nursing staff @ WGH.

In lieu of flowers, share a meal & conversation with those you love, like Maarit would.

Minden Times

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**Free Talk Webinar**
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Where: Zoom
Attention Women over 45! Discover easy, impactful strategies to move from feeling overwhelmed with daily tasks and frustrated with the changes in your body, to having more time and energy for a sustainable health lifestyle with more fitness, fun and fulfillment. Join coach Karen Koehler on zoom for a dynamic 60 min webinar on Dec 11, 2024 at 7:00PM. Sign up at https://3vitalkeys-to-strengthjoyfulfillment.eventbrite.ca

**Christmas Eve Service**
When: Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.
Where: Eagle Lake Community Church

### *Recurring events*

**Bridge for Seniors**
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome

**Haliburton Legion Walking Group**
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

**Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes**
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

**Bid Euchre**
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

**Seniors Chair Exercises**
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

**Cards/Euchre/Cribbage**
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
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Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
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**Weekly Meat Rolls**
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
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Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.


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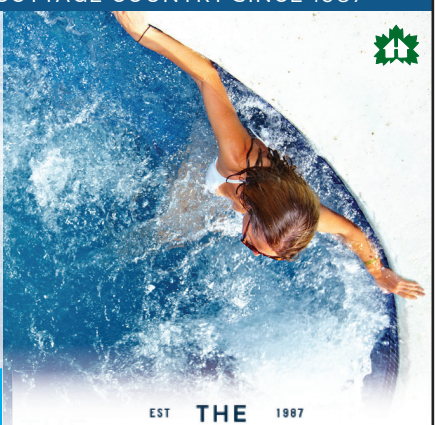

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Monday, December 21, 1998.

Number 1868

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# Elva Bates acclaimed Warden

A brief ceremony was held at Haliburton County council chambers December 15 to officially install the new Haliburton County Warden, Elva Bates. The reeve of Glamorgan Township was acclaimed to the position, replacing Dysart et al reeve Murray Fearrey, who held the post for three consecutive terms. Fearrey decided not to seek a fourth term.

Bates, who was unopposed for the office, thanked the members of county council for their support and encouragement.

"The honour that you have bestowed upon me this evening, I accept with thanks and humility," she said. "It also happens to be my birthday and I look at this as a reverse gift, because I expect to give and give and give over the next year."

Bates said she looks forward to the coming year.

The following day, at the new Warden's first meeting, she told the members of council "the upcoming year promises to be a full one for county

*(more on page 3)*

Santa Claus was the surprise visitor at the Junior Kindergarten Christmas party last week at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden. Tyler Upton was one of many youngsters in Mrs. Reid's class to meet with the jolly old man from the North Pole. For a fun-filled look at the special perspective children bring to the holiday season, be sure to see the Christmas Greeting section accompanying this edition of The Times.

Flanked by Haliburton County Chief Administrative Officer and Engineer Les Shepherd and Dysart Reeve and immediate past Warden, Murray Fearrey, Glamorgan Reeve Elva Bates dons the Warden's robes and chain of office for Haliburton County. She was elected to the post in an inaugural meeting which lasted just 12 minutes Tuesday evening.

# Secondary teachers sign two year contract with school board

After months of discussion and debate, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation district 15 and the Trillium Lakelands District School Board signed a new two, year contract on December 17.

The two parties announced the agreement last week, after it was ratified by both sides. The new contract is in effect from September 1, 1998 to August 31, 2000. The two sides met intensively throughout the fall semester, although talks broke off for several weeks prior to the agreement being signed.

"Both parties worked very hard to resolve the difficult issues associated with amalgamation and restructuring, and we look forward to returning stability to the schools, and providing an environment that supports learning and growth," said Peter Carroll, president of the OSSTF district 15, in a press release. The new agreement is the first to cover secondary school teachers across the new school board, some 490 teachers, working at seven secondary schools and Adult Education centres, in Haliburton

*(more on page 3)*

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